



TWA/35/10

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

**Thirty-Fifth Session**  
**Beijing, July 3 to 7, 2006**

**INFORMATION ON COY AND OFF-TYPE STANDARDS**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

Probability Levels for COY

1. At its twenty-third session, held in Ottawa, Canada, from June 13 to 16, 2005, the TWC discussed document TWC/23/10, which contained information provided by members of the Union responding to a questionnaire, on probability levels used in the Combined-Over-Years Criterion (COY). The document also presented diagrams of the four cases representing the different situations which may arise where the Combined-Over-Years Distinctness Criterion (COYD) and the Combined-Over-Years Uniformity Criterion (COYU) were used in DUS testing. The Chairman noted that there were some differences in the levels of probabilities used and considered that that could cause some problems, in particular in the case of countries which exchange DUS reports. An expert from the United Kingdom noted that the probability levels in the United Kingdom had been chosen with the aim of obtaining similar results to those obtained with the method used previously.
2. The TWC agreed that the results of the questionnaire should be submitted to other Technical Working Parties (TWPs) for consideration and proposed that, in the meantime, the TWC participants should consult with their crop experts concerning the differences in probability levels. It also agreed that, after two or three years, a new document should be prepared.
3. At its forty-second session, held in Geneva, from April 3 to 5, 2006, the Technical Committee (TC) agreed to request the relevant TWPs to consider the results of the

information provided by members of the Union responding to a questionnaire on probability levels used in COY, as presented in document TWC/23/10 (posted on all the TWP 2006 session websites), and to explain the reasons where different probability levels are used to those indicated in the COY recommendations.

Population Standards Used for Assessing Uniformity of Off-types

4. At its twenty-third session, the TWC considered document TWC/23/14, the purpose of which was to present a draft questionnaire seeking information on the population standards used in the assessment of uniformity by off-types, in particular when tests from more than one year were used.

5. The TWC agreed to circulate a revised draft of the questionnaire to the TWC for comments, with an agreed questionnaire to be issued in 2006. The TWC proposed that the TWPs should be informed that the TWC was working on a questionnaire on the population standards used for assessing uniformity of off-types.

6. At its forty-second session, held in Geneva, from April 3 to 5, 2006, the TC agreed that the TWPs should be informed that the TWC was working on a questionnaire seeking information on population standards used in the assessment of uniformity by off-types, in particular when tests from more than one year were used.

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